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SUBJECT Significant pre-World War II Medical Research

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1. Generally speaking, [redacted] prior to World War II, Hungarian medical research compared favorably with similar research in the US and UK. This can be illustrated by the fact that an unusually large number of Hungarian research people from the pre-World War II period now [1953] occupy similar research positions in the US or the UK.

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2. [redacted] names [redacted] on those Hungarian medical researchers of the pre-World War II period whose work [redacted] is significant.

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a. Anatomy and Neuro-anatomy

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- (1) Dr Janos Szentagothai's work in the functional localization of the brain and the nervous system has received considerable international recognition. Szentagothai [redacted] is now located at the University of Pecs.

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- (2) Professor Ferenc Kiss who is [redacted] a professor of anatomy at the University of Budapest, [redacted]

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- 2 -

b. Physiology

- (1) Of course the most significant Hungarian work in this field was performed by Albert Szentgyörgyi and his group who originally worked a great deal of the theory of biological oxidation and discovered Vitamin C. More recently they have concentrated on the biochemistry of muscle contraction. Those of Szentgyörgyi's associates who are still in Hungary include, in order of importance: Bruno Straub - Budapest; Ilona Banga - Szeged and Mihaly Gerendas who is at present director of an organization in Budapest which is called Központi Kutató Intézet which coordinates research activities. Another of Szentgyörgyi's prominent associates is Kalman Laki

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- (2) Professor Aladar Beznak, formerly professor of physiology at Budapest performed some research on nutrition and adrenal functions.

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- (3) Professor Kalman Lissak, who is presently professor of physiology at the University of Pecs, did some work in the field of physiology and biochemistry of nervous functions while at the University of Debrecen.

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- c. Neurology and Neuropathology - considerable work which was recognized internationally was done by the school of the late Prof Karoly Schaffer on the pathology of various cerebral disorders. Some of Schaffer's associates were Prof Kalman Santha, now at Debrecen, Prof (fnu) Miskolczy now at Szeged and Prof Istvan Környey now at Pecs.

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d. Internal medicine

- (1) The school of the late Prof Frigyes Koranyi performed considerable work of international reputation on the problems of renal function and osmotic pressure and the peculiarities of blood and tissue fluids. The most prominent member of this school who may or may not have been a direct pupil of Koranyi, is Prof Istvan Rusznay who is now [1953] president of the Hungarian Academy. He received much of his training in Germany.

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- (2) Imre Haynal has done a considerable amount of work on the function of the spleen and more recently on the functions of the hypothalamus. He has also done some cardiac research. He is currently professor of internal medicine at the University of Budapest

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e. Biochemistry

- (1) Laszlo Szechmeister, who now holds a professorship in biochemistry or biophysics at a leading university, in Hungary did excellent work on the biochemistry of enzymes and pigments, on plasma proteins, and on Vitamin P.

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- 3 -

f. Surgery

- (1) Prof (fnu) Palya, who died in 1945, developed a method of gastric resection which is most frequently used by surgeons all over the world.

g. Ophthalmology

- (1) Prof (fnu) Blaskovich who died in about 1940, and Prof Jozsef Iare who died in 1945 were both quite outstanding in the development of operative treatment of various eye disorders and their work is internationally well known. Blaskovich was trained in Hungary. Iare received one or two years training in the US.

h. Pharmacology

- (1) Prof Geza Mansfeld who died in about 1948 was formerly professor of pharmacology at Pecs. He worked on the physiology and isolation of the hormones of the thyroid gland and other endocrine organs.

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- (2) Prof. Iare (?) Yancso, at present professor of pharmacology at Szeged, has worked on the role of histamine, the effect of antibiotics and the development of immune bodies.

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